



# The Maine Farmer

N. T. TRUE,  
S. L. BOARDMAN, Editors.Our Home, Our Country, and Our Brother Man  
Farmers' Convention in this City.

In our last week's issue, we alluded, in brief, to the Convention of Farmers to be held in this city the present month. At that time we hoped to have full particulars for our present issue, and, may indeed, be able to give them to our readers upon our return. But we are obliged to go to work with those outside without additional information, other than that the time and place have been decided upon. The Convention is to be held under the joint auspices of the State Agricultural Society, and the State Board of Agriculture, at Memorial Hall on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 26th, 27th and 28th. Addresses and discussions upon important subjects connected with this great interest, in which distinguished gentlemen—some of whose names were given in our last—both from out of the State and from within its borders, are expected to participate. But we desire to say that these prominent gentlemen, however great the interest they will give to the Convention, are not to consume time to the exclusion of any practical farmer, come from where he will, who desires to have an opportunity of giving the results of his own knowledge or experience. Lectures are to be given, and ample time will also be arranged for the full discussion of practical subjects. All interested in the prosperity of agriculture are earnestly invited to be present and contribute what they may toward the fund of information thus gathered and diffused.

A programme of the time, subjects and speakers will be given in due season. Arrangements have also been made with the Port. & Ken. Railroad, (and will doubtless be completed with other lines in the State) to give free return tickets to those who attend the Convention.

We hope the local press throughout the State will give publicity to the time and place of holding this Convention, and thereby confer a favor upon the Agricultural interests of the commonwealth.

## Progress of Agricultural Chemistry.

It has now been something more than fifty years since chemistry began to be invoked in favor of agriculture. At first its investigations were of the most primitive character. A knowledge of the composition of minerals and rocks soon led to an examination of soils, and the intelligent farmer was soon led to form some idea of their different characters, composition and capabilities. Sanguine men flattered themselves that by the aid of chemistry they could at once have their soils analyzed and be able to tell what ingredients were wanting to make a perfect soil. Such expectations after a multitude of experiments were only in part realized. Men failed to reap great crops from a mere combination of certain elements, and hence chemistry fell into greater disrepute as an aid to the farmer.

Now this failure arose like all failures of a similar class from expectations unwaranted in the whole domain of science. Merely agricultural enthusiasts of the stamp who flattered themselves that they can raise crops as easily by mathematical demonstration as by chemistry, and vice versa, have invariably a short career. No farming operations can sustain themselves on such principles. Hence the flitting reports of great crops without mure, and greater crops with artificial manures, have in a great measure ceased to influence sensible men.

But there has not been chemistry of benefit to the farmer? We believe it has rendered much greater service to agriculture than it now receives credit for. If we turn to Liebig, whose writings excited so much interest a few years ago, we shall find the very source from which the intelligent farmer caught his first ideas of the composition of soils. That knowledge has unconsciously enabled him to make up for its deficiencies. He has learned the reasons why his crops fail in a multitude of cases, even though he may not be able to supply a remedy.

The Scientific American says in using the grindstone it is more important to sharpen the tool than to raise the stone. It does not require a hundred pounds pressure to the square inch to grind an axe.

Hydroization. Writing upon this subject, Hon. Marshal P. Wilder exclaims: "May we not say how vast and grand is the domain of nature! The very thought of it is overwhelming; and when we consider the undefined and powerful powers of the human mind, who shall set bounds to what can be accomplished by the hand of man in the cross fertilization and improvement of plants?"

House Plants in Winter. The Gardner's Monthly says: "Should any of our fair readers find their plants, by some unlucky accident frozen in the morning, do not remove them at once to a warm place but dip them in cold water, and set them in a dark place, where they will surely escape freezing. Sunlight will only help the frost's destructive power."

To REMOVE OLD PUTTY from plant houses, frames or indeed any place where it has been applied, it is first to get it over with a red hot iron, and get it well warmed up. The application is a simple one, but is recommended by many who have tried it. It is worth mentioning.

New GRAPE DISEASE has made its appearance in France, as we learn from the Gardner's Monthly. It is a minute aphide, known as Rhizobius, and forms yellow parasitic patches on the roots of the grape vine. It is likely to prove more disastrous and formidable than the vine mildew.

Death of a YOUNG BOTANIST. The American Naturalist announces the death of Mr. Horace Mann, son of the eminent educator—which took place recently at Cambridge, Mass. He was one of the most promising botanists in the country, and was but twenty-four years of age. The action of many scientific societies show wide felt is his loss among the scientific minds of the country. At the time of his death he was engaged upon a "Flora of the Sandwich Islands," some numbers of which have already been published.

Chemistry has taught the farmer what the value of phosphorus in the soil, and by that discovery has introduced to his attention the artificial manures found on the discovery and use of guano as a manure. As soon as chemists announced that phosphorus had been discovered in the ashes of all plants that had been analyzed, it let men think for the first time of its importance, and consequently good farmers understand vastly more about the use of manures than formerly, and new sources are sought out for obtaining the most valuable manorial substances.

Men are prone to forget who their benefactors are. The man who invented the friction match has already been forgotten, and so are many men who have brought out from their great storehouses of knowledge in chemistry, a thousand things for the good of their fellow men for which they never receive no credit. We doubt if one farmer in ten knows that Dr. Franklin first introduced gunpowder as a fertilizer, yet that is the most conspicuous, probably, of modern discoveries in the application of reuse.

Chemistry has taught the farmer what the scientist world did not once know—that all food for plants must first be reduced to a perfectly soluble condition. Otherwise it is a foreign substance to the plant. A knowledge of this fact strengthens the farmer in his convictions of what it is best to do with soil, and how to prepare his manures, when he wants their immediate and their more remote action on the plant.

It is wonderful how little knowledge of such first principles will influence men in their modes of thinking, and reasoning, and acting. No farmer talks now of farming as a farmer would have done fifty years ago. No farmer could live on a farm and prosper, who makes no progress in his knowledge of farming.

Chemistry does not benefit a farmer directly. It is only indirectly that he enjoys its knowledge, and this leads him to overlook its advantages. Its influence is much like that of the multiplication table on the mind of a boy. It is only by its application to other rules that it is of any service to him.

It is natural for the best practical farmer to look only at results in chemistry so far as his practice is concerned. The most intelligent farmer who has a good knowledge of chemistry is not apt to say much about ammonia, nor nitrogen, nor phosphorus in his

## To Make Good Bread.

Prof. N. H. Horsford,—the inventor of a preparation now pretty generally used for the purpose of raising bread, and which makes flour more nearly resembling in its forms, and suggests romance—Chemistry, with the aid of the microscope, has given us a knowledge of the character of many diseases, such as cholera, diphtheria, fever and ague, and the like. It has given us knowledge for lighting our houses, and the various dyes for adorning our clothing. It shuns it enters with almost every art and science, and it adds comforts and conveniences, to our very tables, and there is no reason why agriculture should be an exception to its benefits. Let any intelligent young farmer study some elementary work on that subject, and he will acquire a fund of knowledge that will never be forgotten, or its influence lost. He will become richer in ideas, for these ideas are not born with him, but are the result of slow and patient investigation and experience. All our knowledge commences with childhood, but it will not do for us always to be children in our scope of investigation, though we hardly know the process by which we arrive at conclusions on any subject, and we are frequently inclined not to give due credit to ourselves for what we already know.

What we learn is chiefly by observation. Facts accumulate, and from those of the same class we form a principle. Chemistry is a collection of facts reduced to principles which interpret nature and which lead us to make use of them in every kind of manufacture and art. The farmer turns over his soil with the plow, and sees it exhibiting different shades of color and consistency, and from it he can draw a thousand lessons of rich practical instruction if he only knows how to interpret the simple laws of nature.

## Mechanical, Engineering and Scientific Notes.

We gather from our scientific exchanges, some items of interest to mechanics, artisans and others.

The feasibility of laying wooden railways in districts where the traffic does not require a high rate of speed, and where there is an abundance of bird and durable timber, is now being discussed, and many favorable opinions as to their utility, based upon practical experience, are given. Cheaper and quicker common road transportation is one of the most neglected problems of the day; and there are hundreds of out of the way villages, now of little importance, that would soon grow into large centers of traffic and revenue if connected with the nearest railway, by a tram-road or wooden railway upon which a 4-ton locomotive could run at eight miles an hour.

Should these wooden railways be deemed advisable (they are estimated to cost from \$4,000 per mile) the method of preserving wood from decay is recommended by Dr. L. Feuchtwanger in the *Scientific American* would come into use. It is simply to steam the wood, then inject a solution of silicate of soda for eight hours, and then soak the wood in lime water. The process is reliable and economical, converts woody fiber into a mineral substance, and renders it alike combustible and indestructible. For railroad sleepers, wooden rails, bridges or other kinds of wood work constantly exposed to wear, the process should be made use of.

Making photographs of interiors by the aid of the magnesium light is now said to be a complete success:

"Take fresh ground wheat flour; boil thoroughly, with their skins on, in a quart of water, potatoes enough to make a quart of mashed potato; peel the potatoes and mix them with the flour, and boil until set to eight degrees." Add then one pint of brewer's yeast and set aside to raise. Then add half a pint of water or milk to seven pounds, salt, and knead thoroughly. This will make four small loaves; put them in tin pans larger than the loaves, cover them with oil or stiff paper and an oven heated to 212 degrees. When nearly done remove the cover to allow the crust to brown."

## Horticultural and Floral Intelligence.

Zinc Labels. The *Rural New Yorker* publishes a brief note from President Wilder of Boston, in which he enclosed a label which had been exposed to the weather for nine years, and which was perfectly distinct and legible.

The name is simply written on the zinc with a common black lead pencil—the thin coating of bluing acting on the zinc, and ultimately sticking the letters into the metal plate. The material for this label is so common, and its effect so lasting, that it must come into general use.

New Zealand Flax. *Hovey's Magazine* recommends this fine-folinged plant, although it is not hardy enough for our northern climate, and must have protection in the house or cellar during the winter. But it is a very handsome object planted out in the spring, and taken up in the autumn, giving it a good rich soil. In Virginia and further south it probably thrives.

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## Communications.

For the Maine Farmer.

### Thoughts on Farm Life.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—Society has always been blessed with a class of noisy, officious-seeking hypocrites, who were willing to tell the farmers that they were following a noble occupation, that it was honorable and estimable, and many of them have been greatly instrumental in leading the people astray in regard to the above named case and potatoe.

My neighbors were jewed with a new kind of rascals; also by their liberality, induced him to become a victim. He says he has several of these monster bugs laid by for future reference. We say: better destruction, it is not good to cherish the memory of past wrongs.

"A humbug," he says, "is the dearest thing a man can buy." This may be, but dearly bought lessons are always the best paying ones, if rightly applied.

He is a good man, who has never been a scoundrel, and supposed to be peculiarly clean, may prove to be as dangerous as that of hog, provided it is eaten raw or only partially cooked."

## Board of Agriculture.

Fourteenth Annual Session of the State Board of Agriculture will convene in this city on Feb. 20th, last. The new members elected are: D. H. Thing, Kennebec; Z. A. Gilbert, Androscoggin; Geo. E. Brackell, Waldo. We are not aware that Lincoln county has yet elected a member. The session promises to be of unusual interest—especially in its connection with the Convention of Farmers—and we shall, as usual, give full reports of the discussions.

## Intestinal Worms. (*Entozoa*).

The American Entomologist cautions people against the fatal practice of eating uncooked bread, in any of its forms, and whether smoked or unsmoked; and says that of the many scores of persons who have died of *Trichina Spiralis* in this country, every one has eaten either raw ham or raw sausage, or some other uncooked or partially cooked preparation of pork.

All kinds of flesh used as food should be thoroughly cooked before being eaten; for the editor found in one instance that the flesh of the wild duck (Mallard) was full of parasites, similar to those which produce what is commonly known as "measly" pork.

Speaking of the intestinal worms (*Entozoa*), known to inhabit various parts of the human body, the Entomologist says:

"It is now satisfactorily proved that the Tapeworm originates from the fauna into the human intestines of dogs, and the life of the smaller-like creatures (*Cystacidae*), which inhabit the bowels of the other parts of the dog, and when eaten, cause the human being to become a general infestation of the animal.

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## Table Talk.

For the Maine Farmer.

### Humbugs.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—In a brief article in the *Farmer* of Dec. 6th, entitled "Norway Oats and Root Potatoes," the author is evidently solicited to furnish his best knowledge in general on the subject, and in the course of his article, and when character is an assurance that they will do it; thereby excluding none who are qualified, and giving me and encourage to those who are not.

It is true that farmers' boys in Maine are interested in their profession, and understand their own interest well enough, so that the institution will be filled without giving them the assurance that they are to be made the leaders, and are to receive the envy of their less fortunate associates.

As I have gone far enough for once, and have got another on another man's track beside, I will close for this time. O. H. L.

## Agricultural Miscellany.

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MESSRS. EDITORS.—We copy the following paragraphs from an article in the *Grandmother's Telegraph*, written by J. Wilkins, Esq., of Baltimore, Md. Mr. Wilkins' business as Landscape Gardener and Rural Architect, has afforded him rare opportunity for a personal observation of the advantages of city and country life.

Some seventeen years since the writer took from a

station as porter and salesman in a village grocery,

in which he had great leisure, and was greatly

interested in the advantages of city life.

He was a responsible partner, the holder of large shares in

a great estate, upon which he had great leisure,

and was a man of promise, of great wealth and

high social position, and was a man of great

popularity, and was a man of great influence.

He was a man of great wealth and influence,

and was a man of great social position.

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# THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

The Maine Farmer.

Augusta, Saturday, Jan. 23, 1869.

## TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

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## COLLECTORS' NOTICE.

Mr. V. DARLING is now canvassing the county of Penobscot.

## Divorces in Maine.

It will be seen from the proceedings of the Legislature, published in another column, that a bill has been introduced into the House, providing, by an amendment to the present law, that the party for whose fault a divorce is decreed, may be disabled from remarrying during the life of the other party.

In one case this disability is to be made absolute, and in all other cases to be left discretionary with the judges.

The prominence which libels for divorce are said to have acquired in the business of our courts, and the alarming facility with which the decrees are obtained, are calculated to excite inquiry and discussion in regard to the condition of our laws; but the bill above referred to, if it should have a passage, will be the first movement in favor of the more stringent divorce laws which formerly existed in a majority of the States.

The last fifty years and more, the uniform tendency in nearly all of the old States, has been to enlarge the grounds for which divorces are granted, so that the divorce laws have, perhaps, on the whole, been more liberal at the end of every ten years.

It cannot be denied that the feeling of sanctity attached to the marriage relation has very materially declined, and that the frequency of divorces has largely increased within that period. If therefore becomes an important inquiry whether either of these admitted facts can be justly ascribed to liberal divorce laws.

History discloses a variety of prægates and opinion on this subject, in different countries, in ancient and modern times. It shows, however, in almost every instance, that as the people depart from the natural simplicity and purity of earlier customs, and begin to feel the influence of luxurious habits and artificial manners, they also exhibit a tendency to break away from the doctrine of indissoluble marriages, and demand greater facility of divorce. It is said that the Roman republic had existed five hundred years when the first instance of a divorce occurred; while by the civil law either party might renounce the marriage union at pleasure, and the greatest abuse of the divorce prevailed in the most polished ages of the republic. These voluntary divorces were abolished by one of the laws of Justinian, but were afterwards revived for the reason that "nothing ought to be held so sacred in civil society as marriage," yet the "hatred, misery and crimes flowing from indissoluble connections," required as a necessary remedy the restoration of the old law by which marriage was dissolved by mutual will and consent.

In modern Europe divorces are not allowed in the Roman Catholic countries, because marriage is considered a sacrament, and therefore not to be dissolved during the life of the parties. This was formerly the case in France; but the French revolution, which swept away the laws and usages of ages, also made war upon the marriage contract, and six thousand divorces are said to have taken place in the city of Paris in the space of two years and three months.

The code Napoléon regarding marriage purely as a civil contract, authorized divorces upon mutual consent according to the usage of the ancient Romans.

This great facility of separation must always tend in some degree to induce every trading domestic dispute, as well to destroy mutual confidence, and prevent due effort at reconciliation.

The reaction of such laws on the community which frames and enforces them, may also appear in the unseemly haste and recklessness with which the marriage tie is often formed, and in the greatly impaired sense of its seriousness. But it must be remembered, after all, that laws are only the sentiments and ideas of the people formally expressed and embodied in legislative enactments. Social crimes and family disorders may indicate a perverted moral sentiment, but it is precisely this sentiment which has demanded liberal divorce laws; and while the public morals and manners remain the same, the most stringent legislation must prove ineffectual to restrain to any great extent the present mania for divorce. The history of temperance legislation in this State abundantly proves that any attempt to sustain and enforce a law not in accordance with the sentiment of the people, will always result in a failure, and frequently in a violent reaction. Thus, if neither moral ideas, deference to public opinion, nor self-respect will suffice to uphold the strength of the marriage tie, among the masses of the people, it is very questionable if a legal enactment abruptly put upon them can have that effect.

It would therefore seem more philosophical to refer the growing rage for a dissolution of the bonds of matrimony to the "spirit of the age," and not directly to the state of our laws. The inquiry then arises, if divorces are restrained by more stringent legislation, will the peace, harmony and morality of society thereby improve? Or must we first look to the virtues and improvements of society, and then make our laws in uniformity thereto? Will not the "sweeter morsels" be followed by the "purer law?"

A writer upon this subject says: "The married relation is one in which real permanence can never be looked for among average men and women, unless it has a 'home' as a basis, and home, at a time when we are witnessing the greatest movement of population that has ever taken place, are necessarily less numerous than they used to be. Those who look upon it as the most precious possession of civilization can do much to uphold it by this example, not simply in living with their wives or husbands, disagreeable as this may be in many cases, but in taking pains and making sacrifices to have a home of their own and teaching their children to love it. The married couple, who being peculiarly able to avoid it, deliberately and permanently 'board' in order to save trouble or expense may safely be pronounced enemies of society and deserve clerical rebuke in almost equal degree with the purchasers of Indian divorces."

Prior to 1840 divorces were decreed in this State for eight specified causes. Since that time it has been left to the discretion of the judge to grant a divorce whenever he considers it "reasonable and proper, conducive to domestic harmony, and consistent with the peace and morality of society." In 1858 it was enacted that wherever a divorce from the bonds of matrimony had been decreed, either party might lawfully marry again. Thus the law has remained to the present time, and it is not believed that the people have enjoyed any change.

The SWEET FISHERIES. We cordially second the suggestion of our neighbor, the Gardner Journal, in relation to the necessity of legislation for the preservation of the sweet fisheries in our river. The Journal says: "We hope our Senators and Representatives in this country will not allow this Legislature to pass without some action being taken to regulate the sweet fishery. From the millions that used to swarm in our waters they have dwindled away to nearly none, and are long this delicious fish will wholly be driven from the river, unless the whole of wholesale butchers by seines, before they are allowed to ascend the river to swarm, is stopped. This is not a question of localities, or down-river versus up-river, for if the smelts are not allowed to come up the river to swarm there will be none for either locality."

We neglected inadvertently to mention several weeks ago that Mr. John Field of this city had slaughtered a pig sixteen months old, and weighing 575 lbs. We believe this is the largest pig story which has been told this season.

## Farmers' Convention in this City.

The programme decided upon for the Farmers' Convention to be held in this city on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of next week, will be found below. Possibly it may be necessary to make some changes in it previous to the time of the convention—as the gentlemen having the matter in charge are now in correspondence with other parties from whom only partial promises to be present have been received—but it will be carried out in the main as follows:

Tuesday, Jan. 26th. The convention will assemble at 10 o'clock A. M., at the Agricultural Rooms at the State House. After the organization of the convention, and remarks from the President, the exhibition of potes, and a discussion Potato Culture, will take place, occupying the forenoon. At 2 o'clock P. M. a lecture by Hon. Thos. S. Lang, on the Raising of Horses, in Representatives Hall. In the evening a lecture by Prof. C. F. Brackett of Bowdoin College, on the Parasites of Animals.

Wednesday, Jan. 27th. Annual meeting of the State Agricultural Society, for the choice of officers, and transaction of the annual business, at 10 o'clock A. M. At 2 o'clock P. M. lecture by Hon. Henry F. French of Boston, ex-President of Mass. Agricultural College, Farm Drainage. At 7 P. M. lecture by Prof. Geo. L. Goodale of Bowdoin College, on Health and Disease in Plants.

Thursday, Jan. 28th. Convention will meet in connection with the Board of Agriculture, at the rooms of the Board at 10 A. M. At 2 P. M. second lecture of Hon. Henry F. French on Farm Drainage. At 7 P. M. lecture by Dr. Geo. B. Loring, of Salem, Mass., President of New England Agricultural Society, on Breeding of Nest Stock.

Friday, Jan. 29th. Meet at 10 A. M. in rooms of the Board. At 2 P. M. lecture by Dr. Henry Boynton of Woodstock, Vt., on Sheep Husbandry in New England. In the evening a lecture will be delivered by Dr. Geo. B. Loring on the Harmony of action between the Agricultural Societies, the Board of Agriculture, and the Industrial College.

Following each exercise, all unassigned time will be devoted to discussions upon the subject previously presented by the person named in the programme, and to questions and replies arising in connection therewith.

All interested in the prosperity and advancement of agriculture are invited to be present, and aid and abet in the success of this, the first Farmers' Convention in Maine.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE. The Board of Agriculture met at the State House yesterday—Wednesday—and organized by choice of the following officers:

**President**—Hon. Samuel Watson, of Ellsworth. **Vice-President**—Hon. Seth Scammon, of Scarborough. **Messenger**—A. R. Boardman, South Norridgewock.

A detailed report of the proceedings will be given in the Farmer, commencing with our next issue.

GEN. HOWARD VINDICATED. A Washington dispatch says that the Council called by the First Congregational church of that city, in relation to matters of disagreement between Gen. Howard and the pastor, resolved its decision and adjourned. The result which was unanimously adopted, substantially vindicates Gen. Howard and his friends, and condemns the popular course of the Rev. Dr. Baynton, and the small majority who consider themselves the church. It is evident that nearly all the acts complained of by Gen. Howard were unexceptional and opposite. He expressed doubt of the success of the enterprise should Dr. Baynton continue as his pastor. This is the more remarkable, as the Council was called by Dr. Baynton and his friends for their own justification, and Gen. Howard and his friends had no voice in its selection. The Portland Press well says this result will be received by Gen. Howard's friends in Maine with peculiar satisfaction, as they have watched with deep regret a controversy from which his enemies have wrongly drawn conclusions not consistent with his character as a gentleman and Christian.

DR. FULTON'S LECTURE. The second lecture in the Y. M. C. A. course was delivered on Thursday evening of last week by Rev. Dr. Fulton, of Tremont Temple. Subject: "Whom shall we Trust?" As a literary production, the lecture was not of a high order; but as a platform entertainment, given with the dramatic skill and enthusiasm of a professional actor, it was a pleasing succession of incidents and illustrations bearing upon the great law of trust which pervades, or should pervade every department of life. It contained valuable truths and suggestions, and some portions of it rose to the dignity of real eloquence. His sparkling style and enthusiastic manner did not fail to hold the close attention of a large audience.

The next lecture will be this (Thursday) evening, Jan. 21, by Rev. Stephen H. Tyng, Esq., of Brooklyn, N. Y. Subject: "John Banyan."

The Judges of the Probate Courts for the several counties of the State were in council in this city last week, for the purpose, as stated by the Kennebec Journal, of consulting on probate matters, and comparing views in practice in the courts of the several counties in the State, with the intention of proposing such amendments to the probate laws as the interests of the community seem to require. In furtherance of their object they had an interview with the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature. During their stay in this city, the Judges, eleven in number, were admirably photographed together in a group, by Mr. Hendee, the popular artist. The likenesses are all excellent ones.

THE SCHOOLS OF THE VILLAGE DISTRICT will resume their sessions on Monday next, with the exception of the High School, the re-opening of which will be deferred to Monday, Feb. 1st. The Directors have engaged the services of Mr. W. H. Lambert, of Castine, as Principal of the High School in place of Mr. Jackson, the former teacher. Mr. Lambert is an experienced instructor, and is believed to be well qualified for the position. A new teacher has also been engaged for the Girls' Grammar School, on Winthrop street, Miss P. Jenny Brooks of Lewiston, in place of Miss Kitton, who had temporary charge of the school during the last term.

WESTON AGAIN. We learn from the Bangor Whig that Weston, the pedestrian, started on Tuesday afternoon, at 4 o'clock, on his five thousand mile trip. His route will be the same as before laid down, and it is said that he now amply supplied with funds, the lack of which was the cause of his failure on his former trial. He is accompanied by Mr. Cassius Moore, reporter for the New York Tribune; Daniel Palmer, agent for the expedition; Mr. Geo. H. Ward and Elizur Totten. We learn that he arrived at Hampden at 2:55, and arrived at Winterport at 7:30. This is about the same rate of time that he made in his first trial.

THE CONCERT on Wednesday evening of last week, given by Miss Alice Dutton, the celebrated pianist, assisted by Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Hall and the Meers, Windham, was regarded as a rich treat by all in attendance. Miss Dutton's skillful and artistic performances were highly commendable, and all the violinists performed their parts to the satisfaction and delight of the audience. But the enjoyment was impaired by the noise of the witness Welchman, whose evidence it will be seen took place from the piano.

STATEMENT BY Surratt. A correspondent of the New York Herald states that Surratt has prepared a full and explicit statement of the conspiracy which resulted in the death of President Lincoln. In this he denies all knowledge of the assassination plot, but confesses that Booth and himself and others were aware of it, which he did by knocking it down with a rake or some other deadly weapon, thus throwing over it bags, horse-blankets, &c. The bird is now caged and on exhibition at Mr. L's residence. It is not quite as large as a goose and screams like a prairie wolf. Back and wings are blue, with mottled nearly white breast. It has a powerful look and talents and appears to be of a hawk or eagle species, but no one has yet been able to classify it.

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# THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

## Gongressional Summary.

Fortieth Congress—Second Session.

Wednesday, Jan. 18.—Mr. Sumner presented a bill to the Senate, of Dr. Leoni of Washington, who claims to have discovered a new mode of telegraphing, dispensing with wires and asking \$50,000 to enable him to show the value of his invention. Referred to the Committee on Patents.

Mr. Buckley introduced a bill to modify the system of representation of men in Congress. Referred to a select committee.

A bill to extend the provision of the act of March 1853, relating to habeas corpus, and to regulate judicial proceedings so far as they relate to the removal of cases from the State to federal courts in any suits or causes of law, was introduced. It was referred to a select committee.

It says the Turkish Government does not expect that the Conference will reach an agreement.

The ultimate sum sent to Greece was a declaration that the internal affairs of the Ottoman Empire must not be interfered with.

London, Jan. 13.—The report of the capture by the Turkish forces of the Creteans, the Cretan insurrectionists, is confirmed. Four of the Cretan officials were killed and the rest were taken prisoners. Books and documents of the government fell into the hands of the Turks.

VIENNA, Jan. 13.—The official journal of yesterday reports that Count Von Bismarck, the Prussian Foreign Minister, has told Count de Weiprecht, the Austrian Minister at Berlin, that the retention of Baron von Bost in office would be serious action against Greece.

It says the Turkish Government does not expect that the Conference will reach an agreement.

The Senate adjourned to debate at length and passed—32 to 10.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the relief of Seafarers of Dacatur, Ala. No action was taken on the bill.

Mr. Abbott introduced a bill to aid in the construction of a railroad and telegraph line from the Rio Grande to the Pacific ocean, which was referred to the Committee on Pacific Railroads.

House.—The House received the consideration of the resolution extending the protection of the United States to Hayti and St. Domingo.

Mr. Butler of Massachusetts offered a substitute in effect that the President be authorized to extend his protection over other islands of the Antilles to such an extent as he might deem sufficient and not inconsistent with the policy of the country, whether either of them or both shall desire such protection.

Mr. Spaulding offered an amendment to extend protection to any islands in the Atlantic or Pacific oceans, or those which are nearer to the coast of the United States than to any foreign government.

Mr. Biddle offered a motion to include Ireland in the protection of the affair, affirming that the time would come when that country would be annexed to the United States.

Mr. Delano in a speech said the Committee on Foreign Affairs did not concur in the resolution reported by Mr. Abbott.

Mr. Vaughan opposed Biddle's position, contending that Congress had no authority to delegate war power to the Executive.

After further debate, Mr. Woodward made a speech in opposition to the propositions. He then moved to lay it over, which was carried, and the bill was referred to G. C. GOODWIN & CO., 38 Hanover St., Boston. Wm. A. GOODWIN, agent.

Mr. Farnsworth, from the Committee on Post Offices, reported a bill to restrict and restrain the franking privilege.

THURSDAY, Jan. 14.—Mr. Anthony presented the petition of Messrs. Mott, E. L. Rose, and other officers of the American Equal Rights Association, praying for a constitutional amendment giving to women the right of suffrage on equal terms with men. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. Kellogg introduced a bill for the relief of Mrs. Lincoln, wife of Abraham Lincoln. The bill sets forth that:

Whereas, Abraham Lincoln was Commander-in-Chief of the army, and killed by enemies, his widow is entitled to a pension as the widow of our soldier.

Mr. Wilson introduced a bill to fix at \$5000 a year, and the bill be considered immediately for debate. Referred to Committee on Pensions.

Mr. Wilson introduced a bill to amend the act of March 2, 1857, regulating the tenure of certain civil offices, which was referred to the Joint Committee on Reconstruction.

It provides that all persons holding or who shall hereafter hold civil offices to which have been appointed and with the consent of the Senate, except the Secretary of State, Treasurer, War, Navy and Interior, the Postmaster General, Attorney General, and other officers hereinafter made, shall be entitled to hold such offices until a successor shall be entitled to hold such offices until a successor shall have been in like manner appointed and duly qualified, except as otherwise provided in this bill.

Section 21 provides that during a recess of the Senate the President shall have authority to supply offices by appointing the Judge of the Supreme Court, and make an ad interim appointment until the next meeting of the Senate and until the case shall be voted upon and determined by that body.

Mr. Kellogg introduced a bill to aid in the construction of a Southern railroad and telegraph line to the Pacific Ocean, with its branches and connections, which was referred to the Committee on Pacific Railroads.

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The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the relief of Sam Murphy.

During the discussion Mr. Wilson proposed the creation of a board, consisting of Messrs. Thayer, Howard and Ekin, to examine and report claims of the Commonwealth. The bill was referred to the Committee on Reconstruction.

The Senate took up the resolution of the Vermont Legislature against any reciprocity treaty with Canada, and Mr. Morrill spoke at length in advocacy thereof.

The Senate took up the resolution of the Senate of the State of New Hampshire.

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# THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER

Poetry.

## THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW.

Tell, pretty tell the passing bell  
For the year that dies to-day,  
As it gapes to life away.  
Slowly and sadly it lies alone,  
And all the flowers are gone,  
Sighing for work that it might have done  
And for joys that are no more.  
—And here's to the New Year!  
Quickly and merrily,  
Lightly and gayly,  
I'll quote the dirge I chose  
Be the new peal begin.

Oh, quickly the tissues snow  
In the eyes of the winter sky,

And joyous hearts in their youthful glow  
Greet the new year.

But the old year wearseth aches away,

The ice drifts fall from the leviathan,  
And the old year's aches are gone.

And the bleak winds whistle and moan

Glazily and wearily,

The shivering tones look on.

And a chill stings to its breast,

With a strange, new fear present.

And also! for the joys that might have been.

Vain joys, vain sorrows; for quick see

Hire connect the gods spring.

And clothes with new yearstide cast loose,

As the old year's aches are gone.

And the old year's aches are gone.

And the bleak winds bring its store,

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